



Making Tracks

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Making Tracks
Missouri Department of Conservation
2360 Hwy D
St. Charles, MO 63304
www.mdc.state.mo.us

2004 Coming Events...

Landowner Field Day

March 20 August A. Busch Conservation Area

Wetlands for Kids

April 3 August A. Busch Conservation Area

Kids Fishing Fair

May 15 August A. Busch Conservation Area

Prairie Days

September 11 Shaw Nature Reserve

National Hunting & Fishing Day

September 25

Call (636) 441-4554 for more information on these events.

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Making Tracks

St. Louis Regional Calendar of Events

February 2004

Volume 04, Number 02



Maple Sugar Magic

By Anna-Lisa Tucker, *Naturalist*

With snow on the ground and the trees looking barren, many of us find every reason to stay inside the house where our furnaces keep us warm and cozy. After all, there is not much going on outside to give us reason to be outdoors, right? Think again! February is the perfect time to bundle up and venture outside for a season of “maple sugar magic!”

Each year, the magic begins as the weather conditions begin to change. With freezing temperatures through the night followed by warming temperatures throughout the day, transformations begin to happen in the system of these magnificent maple trees. The sap, or sugar water, begins to flow with a purpose of producing new life for the upcoming spring. Native Americans discovered that this sap, through a process of collection and boiling, would produce a sweet, savory syrup and sugar that enhanced many



of their foods. Best of all, it could be done without any harm to the trees! As time passed and more Europeans settled in North America, they too, were taught how to sweeten up their plates with this amazing natural resource. Unfortunately, as industry and big business came along, the traditional art of making maple syrup was changed and lost.

Join us for some sweet times at Rockwoods Reservation, as we keep this season of celebration alive and full of magic. By registering for one of our maple sugar programs, you will get the chance to tap into the world of maple sugaring. You will learn the way sap is produced, discover the fascinating technique of identifying maple trees, participate in collecting and processing the sap, and best of all, enjoy a mouth-watering sample. Lend a hand as we celebrate the sweet winter harvest of a lost Missouri tradition and begin to discover one of the many magical happenings that lie within Missouri’s forests – Maple Sugar Magic!



2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304


For reservations call (636) 441-4554 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. Visit www.mdc.state.mo.us/areas/stlouis/buschca/

2

Groundhogs

Monday9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. & 11 a.m. – Noon

(Ages 6-7) Why does the groundhog look for his shadow? Will we have six more weeks of winter? Discover more about the groundhog’s habits and habitat. (Reservations begin January 17.)



7

Sweetheart Owls

Saturday10 a.m. – 11 a.m.

(Families) Do you know which owl hisses but does not give a hoot? It is the “sweetheart owl”! Wouldn’t you just LOVE to find out more about this endangered owl species that makes its home in Missouri? Why not give a hoot and join us! (Reservations begin January 22.)

17

If I Were a Wolf

Tuesday10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

(Families) What would life be like if you were a wolf? Come put yourself in the wolf’s place and find out about these wild relatives of the dog. (Reservations begin February 2.)

21

Spring Wildflowers

Saturday10 a.m. – 11 a.m.

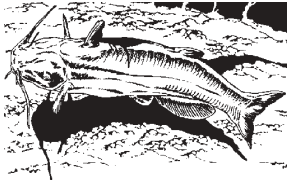
(Adults) Get ready for spring by becoming familiar with the names and appearance of wildflowers. For those who have spring fever! (Reservations begin February 2.)

21

Hike at Dresser Island

Saturday9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

(Adults) Join us for a refreshing 6-mile winter hike at Dresser Island Conservation Area, located in the middle of the Mississippi Flyway. At this time of year at Dresser Island we should see winter-resident wildlife as well as some migrants on their way back north for the nesting season. Eagles, too, may still be in the area getting ready for their return trip north. (Reservations begin February 2.)




Scout Discovery Table:
State Symbols

All Month Self-Guided Exhibit
8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

(All Ages) Learn about Missouri’s state symbols that are connected to the outdoors.
Wolves: Your Flag, Achievement 2d.
Bears: What Makes America Special? Achievement 3e. **Juniors:** Let’s Get Outdoors, Wildlife #1.

(No reservations necessary.)



Busch Shooting Range & Training Center

2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304
(636) 441-4554

10

Basic Shooting, Hunting & Outdoor Optics

Tuesday6 p.m.

Does understanding the technical jargon that goes along with purchasing your rifle scope, binoculars or spotting scope have your head spinning? Confused and not sure what you need for your activity? This program covers the basics of these optics and what you need to know to help with your decisions and use. This program is not only for hunters, but birdwatchers, nature watchers and others who wish to use optics in their activities. Youths under age 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

14

Youth Upland Game Clinic & Hunt for First Timers

Saturday8 a.m.

Never hunted upland game birds and interested? The Eastern Missouri Pheasants Forever Chapter and Busch staff will be conducting a clinic and hunt for youths 11 to 15 who have never hunted upland game birds (quail, dove, pheasant, woodcock, etc.). Participants must be hunter education certified. An adult must attend with the youth. All firearms and ammunition will be provided for the youth.

18

Basics of Modern Arrow Building

Wednesday6 p.m.

Interested in archery, making and repairing your own arrows or just what goes into it? This program provides information to get you started, like shaft selection, fletching, glues, inserts, nocks and how to put it all together. Youths under age 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

19

Trout Fishing Seminar

Thursday7 p.m.

Wanting to get ready for the opening day of trout season? Looking for more information on the sport? Come listen to our staff and guest speakers as they provide basic information and answer questions on trout fishing in Missouri. Youths under age 16 must attend with an adult.

Jay Henges Shooting Range & Training Center

1100 Antire Road, High Ridge, MO 63049
(636) 938-9548

8

Reloading Metallic Cartridges

Sunday9 a.m. – Noon


This is a follow-up course to our Introduction to Metallic Cartridge Reloading Course. If you want to learn more on handgun and rifle cartridge reloading, this is the course for you. This is a hands-on program. All materials will be provided.

19

Antler Scoring Program

Thursday6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Learn the basics on how to score white-tailed deer antlers. This is a non-certified course for Boone & Crockett or Pope & Young. This course will give you the basic knowledge to rough score your antlers.



24

Fish Preparation & Cooking

Tuesday7 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Learn to prepare fish after the catch and how to cook a gourmet meal for your family and friends. The fish will be prepared, cooked and sampled!

29

Public Fun Shoot

Sunday10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Bring a friend to the range day. All fees will be waived to recruit new shooters to the shooting sports. Range staff will be on duty to assist new shooters. Instructions, firearms, ammunition, eye and ear protection will be provided or you may bring your own equipment. This program is a great opportunity to introduce family and friends to the exiting world of recreational shooting.

Rockwoods Reservation

February 2004 Page 6

2751 Glencoe Road, Wildwood, MO 63038

For reservations call (636) 458-2236 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. Visit www.mdc.state.mo.us/areas/stlouis/

7 Winter Tree Identification

Saturday 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

(Families) The sure cure for cabin fever: get outside! We will take a leisurely hike, enjoying the trees and learning to identify them from their bark, buds and form. Dress for the weather. (Reservations begin January 26.)



14 Fly Tying for Trout

Saturday 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

(All Ages) Learn to tie basic trout pattern and fishing methods for Missouri's trout parks. (Reservations begin January 30.)

10 Homeschool Special Maple Sugar Days

Tuesday 10 a.m. – Noon

(Homeschool) Would you like to join us and take part in an old Missouri tradition? We will collect maple sap and boil it down into delicious, homemade maple syrup. This program is outdoors and part of the trail is not stroller accessible. (Reservations begin January 26.)



13 Homeschool Special Maple Sugar Days

Friday 10 a.m. – Noon & 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

(Homeschool) Would you like to join us and take part in an old Missouri tradition? We will collect maple sap and boil it down into delicious, homemade maple syrup. This program is outdoors and part of the trail is not stroller accessible. (Reservations begin January 30.)



21 Maple Sugar Days

Saturday 10 a.m. – Noon & 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

(Families) Join us as we embark on a Missouri tradition of maple sugaring. We will learn about the history of maple sugaring, identify a maple tree without its leaves and collect sap to boil down! Of course, after all the hard work you will get to enjoy samples of Rockwoods' own maple syrup. This program is outdoors and part of the trail is not stroller accessible. (Reservations begin February 6.)

28 Maple Sugar Days

Saturday 10 a.m. – Noon & 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

(Families) Join us as we embark on a Missouri tradition of maple sugaring. We will learn about the history of maple sugaring, identify a maple tree without its leaves and collect sap to boil down! Of course, after all the hard work you will get to enjoy samples of Rockwoods' own maple syrup. This program is outdoors and part of the trail is not stroller accessible. (Reservations begin February 9.)

29 Bluebird House

Sunday 2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

(Families) After learning all about Missouri's state bird and its habits, you can make your very own bluebird box. All materials provided. One box per family. (Reservations begin February 9.)

Columbia Bottom Conservation Area

February 2004 Page 3

801 Strodtman Rd., St. Louis, MO 63138

For reservations call (314) 877-6014 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. Visit www.mdc.state.mo.us/areas/areas/bottom/

7 Winter Wonderland Hike

Saturday 9 a.m. – Noon

(All Ages) Winter is a great time to view wildlife and the many signs they leave behind. Deer, turkey, bald eagles and song birds are all active this time of year looking for food to help them survive the winter. Join the naturalist for a three-mile hike along the River's Edge Trail and discover the many wonders of winter. Dress for the weather; bring your binoculars and your favorite birding guide if you have them. (Reservations begin January 23.)

10 Exploring Nature in Winter

Tuesday 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.

(Families) Bundle up the kids and come explore nature during the winter. Many fascinating discoveries await us as we take a short walk through the woods to find out what animals have been out and about. From bald eagles to deer tracks, there will be many treasures to discover. Think snow, because there will be even more treasures to find! (Reservations begin January 27.)

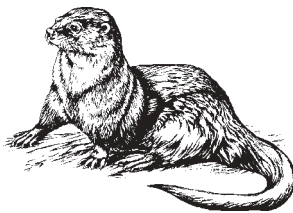
Look for these Natural Events in February!



Chickadees begin to sing—the first bird song of the new year.

Maple sap flows best now; freezing nights and thawing days cause change.

Watch for otters on frozen water.



Look for large flocks of returning robins.



Chipmunks come out of hibernation.

Walleye move onto shoals for spawning through April.

Opossum young are born and climb into the female's pouch.

Watch for the flap and glide of mourning doves' courtship flights.

Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

February 2004 Page 4

11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122

For reservations call (314) 301-1500 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. Visit www.mdc.state.mo.us/areas/cnc/powder/

2& 23 Native Americans & Corps of Discovery

Monday 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

(Adults) This will be a discussion with a volunteer naturalist on the relationships of Native Americans and Lewis & Clark. (Reservations begin January 19 and February 9, respectively.)

3 Did He See His Shadow?

Thursday 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

(Ages 3-6) He ain't nothin' but a ground hog, just sleepin' all the time. Discover how ground hogs live through activity, song and craft. Dress for the weather. (Reservations begin January 20.)

7 Paper Making Workshop

Saturday 10 a.m. – Noon

(All Ages) Come on a recycling adventure into papermaking. Convert scraps of paper into beautiful homemade papers. Please bring one or two old towels. (Reservations begin January 23.)

11 Valentines for the Birds

Wednesday 10:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

(Ages 3-6) Find out why the birds need your special help this time of the year! We'll make them a special treat! (Reservations begin January 28.)

19 Breakfast with the Birds

Thursday 7:30 a.m. – 9 a.m.

(All Ages) Observe our feathered friends at the feeders while partaking in simple breakfast fare. And, should weather permit, we'll head outdoors to look further. (Reservations begin February 5.)

26 Hop, Jump, Pounce– It's Leap Year!

Thursday 4 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

(Ages 7-12) Leaps tall buildings with a single bound. It's not Superman. Discover what's hopping, jumping and pouncing this leap year and beyond. Be prepared to hike the trail and scout out what's leaping around Powder Valley. (Reservations begin February 12.)

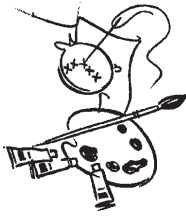
26 Rocking Chair Story Time

Thursday 10 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. & 1 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

(All Ages) Come enjoy a fun-packed time of hearing stories, using puppets and experiencing surprises galore! (No reservations necessary.)

ALL MONTH Scout Discovery Table Conservation Careers & Area Information

(All Ages) Check out the many opportunities in the field of conservation and pick up information about conservation areas in your backyard. Designed for **Junior Girl Scouts** to accomplish Let's Get Outdoors: Your Outdoor Surroundings #7 and for **Cub Scout Bears** to accomplish Achievements #5 c & d of Sharing your World With Wildlife. (No reservations necessary.)



February Hallway Exhibit Pauline Blandina, O.P. Artist

Powder Valley is pleased to host the artwork of Pauline Blandina, O.P. A Dominican Sister of Sparkhill, NY, Blandina was born and raised in St. Louis. After 30 years as an educator, Blandina began her second career in 1991 as a full-time artist. As a self-taught artist, she was first captivated by watercolor media. A growing portfolio and new fascination for portraiture led Blandina to drawing and painting classes at St. Louis Community College.

Blandina's exhibit includes both originals and prints of our natural world. Stop by Powder Valley and enjoy the artwork of Pauline Blandina, O.P. Blandina will exhibit her work in our hallway gallery throughout the month of February.

Resident Artisan

Be sure to check future *Making Tracks* issues for spring and summer Resident Artisan programs. Look for some of your favorite artists to return and check out the artists new to Powder Valley.



Living With Canada Geese Workshops

Missourians can learn how to avoid and reduce conflicts between giant Canada geese and people at workshops in the St. Louis area in February.

In cooperation with the Missouri Department of Conservation, GeesePeace St. Louis, a nonprofit group that promotes non-lethal solutions to nuisance goose problems, is offering six workshops in 2004.

Participants will learn population stabilization techniques. The workshop also includes information about the use of landscaping, trained dogs, chemical repellents and no feeding policies as options for an integrated goose management plan. The following is a list of scheduled workshops:

Wildlife Rescue Center in Ballwin

February 4, 7 – 9 p.m.

February 11, 10 a.m. – Noon

February 29, 2 – 4 p.m.

Humane Society in St. Louis City

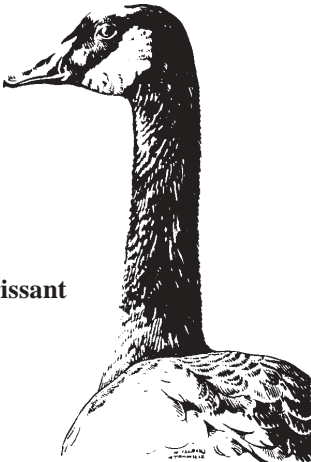
February 18, 10 a.m. – Noon

Florissant Valley Community College in Florissant

February 22, 10 a.m. – Noon

Powder Valley Nature Center in Kirkwood

February 26, 10 a.m. – Noon



To register or learn more about the workshops, contact GeesePeace at (314) 567-2081 or visit: www.geesepeacestlouis.org. To learn more about Canada geese visit our website: www.mdc.state.mo.us

Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center Films

January 31 & February 1

10 a.m. – 11 a.m. & 1 p.m. – 2 p.m.

Eyewitness: Mammal

How Animals Move

11 a.m. – Noon & 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.

The World of Wiley Black Bear:

Furbearers of Missouri

February 8 & 9

10 a.m. – 11 a.m. & 1 p.m. – 2 p.m.

Eyewitness: Prehistoric Life

Eyewitness: Dinosaur

11 a.m. – Noon & 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.

The Savage Garden with Leslie Nielsen

February 14 & 15

10 a.m. – 11 a.m. & 1 p.m. – 2 p.m.

See How They Grow: Pond Animals

See How They Grow: Wild Animals

11 a.m. – Noon & 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Triumph of Life: The Mating Game

February 21 & 22

10 a.m. – 11 a.m. & 1 p.m. – 2 p.m.

Magic School Bus: Hops Home

Critter Rock

11 a.m. – Noon & 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Our Wild Inheritance

Guarding Our Living Environment

Creating an Urban Oasis

February 28 & 29

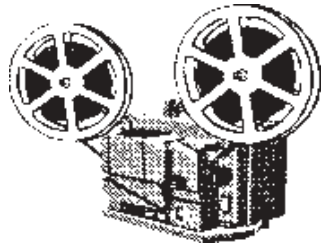
10 a.m. – 11 a.m. & 1 p.m. – 2 p.m.

Adventures in the Backyard

Outside With Billy B

11 a.m. – Noon & 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Rivers & Streams



Shown in Auditorium — Free of Charge — Groups Welcome!
Children's films 10 – 11 a.m. & 1 p.m. – 2 p.m. Saturday & Sunday
All Ages films 11 a.m. – Noon & 2 p.m. – 3 p.m. Saturday & Sunday
No Reservations Required
Films are subject to change.

Powder Valley Volunteer Milestones

Charlie Anderson.....3500 hours
Julie Hoijarvi.....400 hours
Arta Kirk.....600 hours

Jack McGinnis.....4100 hours
Dale Rees.....1900 hours
Dick Wasson.....3800 hours

Rosemary Witte.....2500 hours
Marjorie Yamada.....3500 hours